

THE ARGUS.

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FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1892.

WORKINGMEN SPEAK.

THE KENSINGTON REFORM CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA PETITIONS.

They Give the Facts in Their Own Lines of Labor and Point Out the Remedy. They Want Free Raw Materials to Begin With.

The following is a part of the petition sent to congress by the Kensington Reform club of Philadelphia, an organization composed entirely of workmen in the highly protected textile industries:

While labor is the most directly interested in the arrangement of tariff schedules it has been customary for those who have favored high protective duties to turn a deaf ear to its appeals despite their protestations of solicitude for the welfare of the toilers. The clamors of those who find a special interest in high duties, having the time and means to besiege the doors of congress, have not been unheeded. The fat they tried out of the workingman enabled them to render special service to the partisan machine, and thus they could make their weight felt far better than the fleeced workingman.

Now, however, that there is once more an opportunity for labor to be heard upon an equal footing with the capitalists, we, the Kensington Reform club, as an organization composed of working men in every branch of the textile industries, send greeting to the friends of fairplay and honest and equal government, with a prayer for the immediate passage of a free wool bill now under consideration in the house, which, while it may not fully meet our desires, is yet a measure offering great relief to the whole people.

The labor in the woolen industries has never been in so depressed a condition as in the past year. The carpet industry was never so demoralized. Wages have been reduced both in a direct way and by the various surcharges called adjustments, readjustments and fines, and yet the cost of living has been perceptibly increased until the condition of labor is well nigh unbearable. Employment has grown more unsteady, many mills working but partial time, while in others the waiting for warp and filling amounts to a loss of from one-quarter to one-half time. This is no idle talk, but the result of investigation, as it is one of the missions of our organization to intelligently watch the effects of legislation upon labor, and we may here add that there has never been an increase in tariff rates that was not almost immediately followed by reduction of wages. This is surely contrary to what was promised as the result of the tariff law passed by the last congress, and is it surprising to find workingmen realizing that they have been fooled once too often?

If, as has been asserted in congress recently, the manufacturers do not need or want a high tariff, and it is solely for the benefit of labor, then there is not the slightest impediment to an agreement about its abolition. But since the gentlemen who make this assertion still oppose a reduction, the workmen who don't want it either are certainly justified in praying that those kind souls may stop their benevolent endeavors to raise wages by law, which they can't do, and set about raising them in the mills, which they can do, and if they will only give to the workmen that which they otherwise give to the party machine the workers will be able to buy more clothes and thus make more work for the mills.

We here reiterate the fact that the greater cause for the inability of the American manufacturers to compete with their foreign rivals is because of the unjustifiable tax on the raw materials, and not the differences in wages, and that this tax amounts to from three to five times more than the entire wages account in the product. It is needless for gentlemen to imagine that they can forever fool the workingman by their expressions of solicitude for wages while yet willing and anxious to bear the enormous burden of this unnecessary tariff tax on the raw materials. To the workingman of ordinary intelligence this looks like trying to find excuses for the further reduction of wages, for so long as they can be made to believe that their wages are princely as compared with the wages of workmen on the other side of the water, they may be induced to submit to reductions without knowing that they are rapidly nearing the level of the "pauper labor of Europe."

Workingmen are praying deeply just now that their protectionist friends may stop awhile their hard labors to raise the wind by tariff laws, so as to take time to give their professions a practical turn by raising wages in fact. But if we may judge men by their actions, we are justified in asserting that if these professional friends of labor thought that a tariff would raise wages, they would drop it quickly.

In a recent number of The Manufacturer, the organ of the protectionist manufacturers, its editor, in a labored article, tried to show that the English manufacturers were selling their goods here as cheaply as they did before the McKinley law went into effect, and deducing from that, that the foreign manufacturers were paying the tax for the privilege of selling in our market. In another article of the same number the fact is stated that Botany tops have declined in price in England sixteen cents per pound, and this is given as a

partial reason for their ability to sell as cheaply as before the increase of the tariff. When we consider that this decline of prices of wool is equivalent to a saving of upward of thirty-two cents in every pound of manufactured cloth we may find it to be the whole reason. Here is a pretty mixture of facts and fancies, but then if every tariff advocate would stick to facts their cause would suffer badly.

On a par with this is their avowal that the materials of manufacture are not deteriorating. They dare not put their workmen on the stand to testify to this under oath, for they would fully corroborate the statements made to your honorable committee of ways and means by the wool consumers' committee (themselves manufacturers) that the McKinley law has promoted largely the adulteration of woolen manufactures. It is only necessary to state one fact to show the falsity of their claim. If all the wool in the country, domestic and imported, outside of that used for carpets, were made up into pure wools, there would be only about 80,000,000 pounds of cloths, dress goods, blankets, hats and numerous other articles for our 61,000,000 people, or a little over 1 1/2 pounds for each individual. What sane man believes that 80,000,000 pounds will cover all the goods that are sold to the public as all wool American manufactures in a year? But we must not forget that they have learned to manufacture wool by putting cast off clothing through a chemical process which eats up all but the wool, and this residue is recarded and used to mix with other wool, but as the chemicals have eaten the life out of it, there is no practical difference between it and cotton.

With reference to the difference between American and foreign wages we are prepared to prove that in many branches our rates are even below English rates, and the same is true even of actual earnings. The rate paid now for woolen weaving in the Huddersfield (England) district varies from 1 cent for 8 picks for plain work to 1 cent for 8 picks for fine work, with extra pay for extra heddles, extra colors, extra beams, while the highest rate paid in this country is 1 cent for 5 picks, but no extras, which levels it down to the highest English rate; but there are very many mills in this country, in fact most of them, that pay only 1 cent for 8 picks and less. Thus for 60 pick work the English rate is from 6 1/2 cents per yard to 10 cents per yard, extras to be added, while the American rate is 6 to 12 cents with no extras. If the American weaver earns more money than the English in a week it is simply because he works faster and turns out more product.

The stubborn perversity and dishonesty of the protectionist is nowhere better seen than in their steady refusal to correct the most glaring inconsistencies and mischievous discriminations of their tariff laws, even after their attention has been repeatedly drawn to them, and they dared not deny them. One is the discrimination against American manufacturers involved in the adjustment of the duties between the raw materials and the finished products, and the other is the placing of a heavier tax upon the poor man's necessities than upon the rich man's luxuries. We called their attention to these points as far back as the spring of 1886, and the protectionist National Woolen Manufacturers' association pointed out substantially the same errors in their letter to the secretary of the treasury in the fall of 1885, and yet in the makeup of the McKinley law this infernal piece of injustice was not only retained, but made worse than ever. This shows that they had no idea of perfecting an act of justice in a viciously determined purpose to serve a few masters. In fact, it appears to them to be a pleasure to shift the burdens of taxation off the shoulders of the rich to those of the poor—to make labor the pack mule of the rich.

The cry of protectionist manufacturers now is that the McKinley law be let alone because it is doing the manufacturers a great deal of good, yet in the fact of this there has yet to be recorded one important instance of advancing wages, but the instances of wages being pared down are numerous. This is another evidence of their false pretenses, and such indisputable facts ought to surely be sufficient to cause labor to open its eyes to the real purpose of its protectionist friends—a purpose to serve the rich at the expense of the toilers of the country and to impel the toilers to rise in their manhood to throw off the shackles that bind them to their insidious enemies.

We now declare, without fear of contradiction, that there is not a woolen manufacturer in Philadelphia who does not privately long for free wool, and those who openly advocate taxed wool are actuated by partisan rancor, and we are still more emphatic in the declaration that there is not in Philadelphia one woolen worker out of a hundred who would not openly ask for free wool were they all free from the sinister influences of the losses. As we prefer our own prosperity and bread and butter to party success we ask for free wool first, without reference to its effects upon parties.

Poorer Goods and Higher Prices.
 Mr. Whiting, a congressman from Michigan and one of the members of the committee of ways and means of the house of representatives, has an interest in a large mercantile firm in St. Clair, Mich. Being in the business he ought to know what effect the McKinley tariff has had upon prices. When he was asked, on his return to Washington from New York, where he had been buying goods, what effect the high duties have had upon prices, he said:

The importers of New York are protesting with one voice against a policy of the custom house, which is now to exact the highest possible rates of duty and to treat all importers as dishonest and guilty of under-allocation. I have no doubt that the moving cause is the fact that money is needed to fill an empty treasury, but the people must pay the bills. The high tariff now being collected encourages American manufacturers to support the

Republican ticket with large contributions, and I have no doubt the administration knows what it is about.

The claim that goods have not been made higher by the McKinley law I am able to deny with emphasis after a practical experience of several days in purchasing all classes of importations, as well as home goods. In many cases the quality of goods is degraded in order not to show increased cost. In other cases expensive goods are dropped from the counters of the wholesale houses, and cheaper articles are substituted and introduced as a "change of style." It is but a poor subterfuge to make the poor consumer think he is paying no more for the same articles he purchased a year ago. I do not think any buyer is deceived.

HOW IT ENDED.

The Modern Courtship of Caleb Binkley and Maria Sutton.

For fifty years Caleb Binkley and Maria Sutton had lived neighbors in a double house on a pleasant street of a little old New England village. They had grown up together there, and they had seen all the members of their families carried to the graveyard on the hill, leaving them alone in their houses. For twenty years they had lived thus, and their days went by peacefully and happily.

One morning in May, Caleb was in the garden back of his house, prodding away with his hoe, and Maria was in hers fixing a flower bed.

"It's a fine morning, Maria," called Caleb across the fence.

"Beautiful," said Maria.

"Seems ez ef the sun was shining jest for our benefit, don't it?" remarked Caleb, dragging a tangled weed from his hoe handle.

"Yes, Caleb, I guess it shines down on my side about like it does on yours."

Caleb looked up at the blue sky for a moment and then walked over to the fence.

"I say, Maria," he said, "I've been thinkin about takin down this fence. Your pa and mine put it up here forty year ago, but 'twan't never much use. What do you say to takin it down?"

"Might ez well ez not, I guess, Caleb," assented Maria, without changing her position.

A minute or two later Caleb, with an ax in his hand, was back again.

"Maria," he said, "I guess of a thing bez got to be done it might ez well be done right off, hadn't it?"

"I guess it might, Caleb."

Maria went on with her digging, while Caleb hewed and chopped at the wooden fence, and at last the work was done.

"It'll make good firewood, Maria," he said, as he surveyed the wreck, "and if you'll tell me where you want your half put I'll pile it up for you handy."

"It looks summat strange not to see a dividin line between us, don't it, Caleb?" she remarked as she stood up and looked across both gardens.

"I was noticin that myself, Maria," he said quietly.

"Twan't no use," was it? she inquired, doubtfully gazing at the fence prone on the earth.

"Never was," he answered. Then he came nearer. "Ain't much more use in two people livin in two houses either, is there, Maria?" he said.

"None that I can see, Caleb," she responded, with a faint glow of color in her cheeks and neck.

Caleb seemed to be trying to swallow something that would not go down. He attempted to speak and failed, and then he tried to go to her and that was an ignominious failure also. At last he made a successful effort at speech.

"Maria," he said, pulling himself up straight, "where do you want your half of the old fence piled?"

"Caleb," she almost whispered as she came and laid her hand on his arm, "pile it up with yours."—W. J. Lampton in Detroit Free Press.

The giant Ferragus, slain by Orlando, the nephew of Charlemagne, was twenty-eight feet high and so heavy that no horse could be found that was strong enough to bear him.

It is said that colors passing through a prism can be made to produce sound, and as might be anticipated, red and green make the loudest noises.

A Much-Married Woman.
 Mrs. Fowler, of this city, was married last January to her sixth husband, and strange as it may seem, five of them died exactly two years from their marriage day. Her present husband has been sick for the last four months with chronic jaundice, and was given up by four of our best physicians; as a last resort he began using Sulphur Bitters, and yesterday told our reporter that they had saved his life, smilingly saying that he guessed Mrs. Fowler would be unable to take a seventh better half for some time to come.—Exchange.

From Kalamazoo.
 Norman Litchy, D. S. Moines, Iowa.—Dear Sir: A box of Headache Capsules were handed to me and I have used them with perfect success. They cannot be recommended too highly. Could not possibly do without them in my house. I recommend them to sufferers with this common though terrible complaint.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.
 Sealed bids for the material and construction of a building for a creamery at Barstow will be received by the building committee, all bids to be in before Saturday, April 30, 1892. The plans and specifications for said building can be seen at the residence of the secretary, S. L. Lambert, Barstow, Ill.
 The committee reserve the right to reject any and all bids.
 Bars ow, Ap 11 23.
 S. L. LAMBERT.

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THE TRAVELERS' GUIDE.

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY—Depot corner Fifth Avenue and Thirty-first Street, Frank H. Plummer, Agent.

TRAINS	EAST.	WEST.
Council Bluffs & Minnewaska Day Express	7:05 am	4:15 am
Kansas City Day Express	11:40 am	5:50 am
Washington Express	12:45 pm	8:12 pm
Council Bluffs & Minnewaska	7:15 am	7:50 pm
Omaha and Denver Vestibule Express	8:14 am	8:56 pm
Kansas City Limited	8:48 am	10:17 pm
Stuart and Omaha Express	9:45 am	9:00 am
Denver Flyer	1:42 am	8:22 pm

BURLINGTON ROUTE—C. B. & Q. RAILWAY—Depot First Avenue and Sixteenth St., M. J. Young, Agent.

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
St. Louis Express	6:50 am	6:30 am
St. Paul Express	7:37 am	7:17 pm
St. Paul Express	6:45 pm	7:51 am
Beardstown Passenger	9:55 pm	10:35 am
Way Freight (Moonmouth)	8:00 am	1:50 pm
Sterling Passenger	7:35 am	6:40 pm
St. Paul Express	5:30 am	8:45 pm
Sterling Freight	11:20 am	10:31 am

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RAILWAY—Racine & Southwestern Division—Depot Twenty-first Street, between First and Second Avenues, E. D. W. Holmes, Agent.

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
Mail and Express	6:45 am	9:10 am
St. Paul Express	7:15 am	8:10 am
Mail and Express	8:15 am	10:10 am
St. Paul Express	8:45 am	10:40 am

ROCK ISLAND & PEORIA RAILWAY—Depot First Avenue and Twentieth Street, F. H. Rockwell, Agent.

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
Fast Mail Express	6:15 am	7:15 pm
Express	2:30 pm	1:45 pm
Cable Accommodation	1:30 am	3:30 pm
Cable Accommodation	1:30 am	3:30 pm

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EAST BOUND.

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
Lv. Rock Island	6:15 am	8:30 am
Ar. Omaha	8:51 am	9:14 am
Cambridge	9:10 am	9:27 pm
Gaia	9:44 am	9:57 pm
Wyoming	10:30 am	4:35 pm
Princeton	10:39 am	4:57 pm
Peoria	1:15 pm	5:55 pm
Bloomington	1:15 pm	9:15 pm
Springfield	3:45 am	4:30 pm
Jacksonville	4:00 am	12:05 p.m.
Decatur	4:30 pm	10:20 pm
Danville	3:50 pm	12:10 p.m.
Indianapolis	6:35 pm	8:15 am
Terre Haute	7:10 pm	10:30 am
Evansville	1:30 am	7:35 am
St. Louis	8:30 pm	7:00 am
Cincinnati	10:00 pm	7:00 am
Louisville		

WEST BOUND.

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
Lv. Peoria	10:15 am	4:10 pm
Ar. Rock Island	1:30 pm	7:30 pm

Accommodation trains leave Rock Island at 6:00 a. m. and 6:45 p. m.; arrive at Peoria 3:45 p. m. and 3:30 a. m. Leave Peoria 6:00 a. m. and 7:15 p. m.; arrive Rock Island 4:30 p. m. and 2:05 p. m.

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CABLE BRANCH.

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
Lv. Rock Island	6:15 am	6:30 am
Ar. Reynolds	10:30 am	5:05 pm
Cable	1:30 am	8:00 am

TRAINS	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
Lv. Cable	6:20 am	12:50 pm
Ar. Reynolds	7:00 am	1:45 pm
Rock Island	7:35 am	3:30 pm

H. B. SUDLOW, Superintendent. G. C. T. K. Age.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of John G. Mueller, Deceased.
 The undersigned having been appointed administrator of the estate of John G. Mueller, late of the county of Rock Island, state of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that he will appear before the county court of Rock Island county, at the office of the clerk of said court, in the city of Rock Island, at the June term, on the first Monday in June next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend, for the purpose of having the same adjusted.

All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 Witness my hand and seal of office, this 12th day of April, A. D. 1892.
 CATHERINE G. MUELLER, Administrator.

A MAN

UNACQUAINTED WITH THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY, MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION FROM A STUDY OF THE MAPS



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